

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I see from the answer to part (a) of the question that the lion cub that was sold is a tamed one. What I want to know is why the Director did not sell the untamed lion cubs.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): All the cubs are tame. Young cubs are not so ferocious as grown-up lions.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the two cubs in the zoo let out in the gardens?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no reference to that in the question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do the Government not think that the tamed cub is a more valuable one than an untamed one?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer has already been given.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But it was not done with proper advertisement. If they had advertised for its sale, it would have fetched more.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of opinion.

PRESIDENT: Yes, it is a question of opinion; you cannot put it as a question for information.

Lions in the Zoo.

127. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (a) How many lions are there in the gardens?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the prices at which lions were purchased by them in the past? Were they tame lions?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) There are now no full-grown lions in the zoo.

(b) Information is not available.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether, when this cub was sold, there was any condition attached to its sale to the man who purchased it.

PRESIDENT: You are referring to a particular cub. Here, in the question, you have referred to more than one lion. Your question is: "How many lions are there in the gardens?"

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What I want to know is when there is no lion in the zoo what made the Government sell that tamed cub.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer to part (c) of the preceding question gives the answer to this supplementary question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the expenditure, per month, on a lion cub?

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is about Rs. 30 a month.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then it is better that the zoo is closed.

PRESIDENT: You cannot argue; you can only put a question.

Extension of Service to Mr. Thomas Varghese, Sirkar Vakil.

128. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (a) Is it a fact that the Head Sirkar Vakil has recommended a second extension of service to Mr. Thomas Varghese, Sirkar Vakil, Kottayam?

(b) Will they be pleased to state whether they are going to grant another extension to him?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) No.

(b) The extension of service already given to Mr. Thomas Varghese expires only on the 17th Medam, 1099. The consideration of the question of a further extension of his service is premature now.

Extension of Service to Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.

129. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (a) How many times has the present Additional Head Sirkar Vakil been given extension of service up to this?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the special reason why such special consideration was shown to this officer when other high officers like High Court Judges were not shown any such consideration?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Three.

(b) Mr. Subba Aiyar is still, in the opinion of the Government, physically and mentally quite fit. His retention in the service has been sanctioned on public grounds.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I wish to know what the 'public grounds' referred to in the answer are.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The ground is that Mr. Subba Aiyar's presence as Law Member of this Council is essential in the early life of the Council.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do the Government think that there are no capable Travancoreans?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, that is not a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: It does not arise.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has Mr. Subba Aiyar been certified physically fit?